

RETURN

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COVERING THE FIFTH JOINT REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE DEMARCATION OF THE MERIDIAN OF THE 141ST DEGREE OF WEST LONGITUDE.

The undersigned Commissioners appointed by virtue of the First Article of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed at Washington on the 21st of April, 1906, have the honour to present their Fifth Annual Report upon the progress of the demarcation of the 141st Meridian, where it forms the boundary line between the United States and Canada.

By reference to our Fourth Annual Report it will be seen that at the close of the survey season of 1910 the line tracing had been completed from near Mt. Natazhat in latitude $61^{\circ} 34'$, northward to latitude $67^{\circ} 33'$. During the season of 1911 the line tracing was carried a distance of about 124 miles to latitude $69^{\circ} 20'$, at which point the Arctic Ocean was plainly visible, but a few miles distant.

The triangulation was carried in 1911 from latitude $67^{\circ} 29'$ to latitude $68^{\circ} 54'$, a distance of 100 miles, and the topography from $66^{\circ} 43'$ to $69^{\circ} 04'$, 164 miles.

Vista cutting and stadia measurements were carried on by two parties, one of which working northward from the point reached last year between the Yukon and Porcupine rivers, completed 115 miles, and the other working northward from the Porcupine river, completed 99 miles.

The final monumenting was completed on 25 miles of the line between the Yukon and Porcupine rivers and on 75 miles north of the Porcupine river.

The epidemic of smallpox at Rampart House, which developed from one case on July 23rd to 71 cases on September 10, delayed none of the parties in the field, as they had gotten well away from Rampart House before the disease appeared. Probably if it had not been for the smallpox some topography would have been done in the fall in the vicinity of the Porcupine above and below Rampart House. Instead, however, of waiting there for the steamer the parties were obliged to assemble at a point some 65 miles lower down the river.

It was not possible to use any Indians at Rampart House, as we intended, for handling the 300 tons of freight brought up the river during the summer by the Northern Navigation Company's boats, and by the survey launches. This freight was all handled by the half-dozen members of the survey party who happened to be at Rampart, every man turning in, even to chiefs and cooks, assisted at times by the launch crews. This prevented the officers in charge of the field work from going out north along the line during the latter part of July as they had hoped to do, to study the situation for next year. If it had not been for this delay at Rampart, it is probable that a much greater proportion of next year's supplies would have been sent at least part of the way up the Old Crow. As it is, about 30 tons only are any further than Rampart House. It is hoped, however, to have the launches in early next season and to have supplies at the line before the men and horses can get across country from Rampart House.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgd.

O. H. TITTMANN,

United States Commissioner.

Sgd.

W. F. KING,

H. B. M. Commissioner.

WASHINGTON, December 29, 1911.

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR,
OTTAWA, January 27, 1912.

Memorandum.—I beg to submit herewith a copy of the Fifth Joint Report of the Commissioners for the Demarcation of the Meridian of the 141st degree of West Longitude. This report is made in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Article of the Treaty signed at Washington on the 21st of April, 1906, and as it has been customary in past years to submit copies of these reports to both the House of Commons and the Senate, I send a copy herewith for presentation, if you approve of that action. A copy has been prepared also for the Senate and one for the information of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister.

Honourable ROBERT ROGERS,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.